

REMARKS

As previously argued, U.S. Patent No. 5,640,002 to Ruppert does not disclose a common digitizer for the RFID reader 314 and the magnetic stripe reader 512. The Examiner disagreed and directed the applicant's attention to the block diagram of Fig. 19 and to col. 17, line 8+.

As the Examiner will note upon reconsidering Fig. 19, a microcomputer 320 communicates with and coordinates a "plurality of peripherals" (col. 19, lines 3-5). Each peripheral is a commercially available unit and produces a digital output signal for input to the microcomputer 320.

For example, the bar code engine peripheral 322 is commercially available from Scanquest (col. 19, lines 18-20). The RFID reader/writer peripheral 314 is commercially available from the host of suppliers identified at col. 22, lines 1-19. The magnetic stripe card reader peripheral 512 is of conventional design used in many retail point of sale facilities (col. 32, lines 54-58). The commercial sources for all the other peripherals are similarly identified.

In short, each of these peripherals is an independent, discrete, commercial unit that produces a digital output signal for input to the microcomputer. Each peripheral has its own digitizer. There is no suggestion that, for example, the digitizer used in the RFID reader/writer peripheral 314 could or should be shared with another peripheral.

The Examiner is correct in pointing out that the electronic circuitry of Fig. 19 is mounted in the same enclosure of Fig. 16. Although the enclosure is the same, this does not suggest that electronic components of the circuitry of different peripherals are the same.

To further emphasize this distinction, the claims 22-23 recite that the digitizer shared by the RF reader and the magnetic stripe reader is a "single" digitizer.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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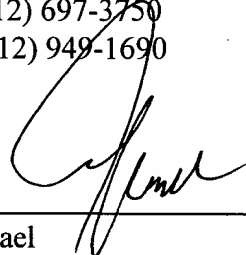
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